

*Dear Chairman Cohen, Chairman Gresko and Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee,*

*I am writing in support of House Bill No. 5145 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PORTABLE WASTEWATER CONTAINERS."*

- Use of blue boy tanks is approved in state operated campgrounds, but, not in private family campgrounds in Connecticut. This has resulted in numerous complaints by campers who camp in both state and private family campgrounds. This causes a great deal of confusion as to why it's ok in one situation but not in another.
- According to the National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds (ARVC), blue boy tanks are allowed to be used in private family campgrounds in every other state in the country.
- Connecticut regulations (Sec. 19a-2a-29) do not specifically mention or prohibit the use of blue boy tanks in private family campgrounds. They do mention allowing the use of "honey wagons" (campground provided pump out services). The DPH interpretation of the regulations has been that honey wagons are allowed but use of blue boys is not. Again, no specific mention of blue boy tanks exists in the regulations.
- Commonly used everywhere camping takes place, blue boy tanks in use are designed specifically for the purpose of bringing wastewater to the proper dump station
- Relating to spillage concerns, campgrounds already have safety plans in place in the case of a leak from their honey wagons which would make cleanup of a potential blue boy spill much easier and more effective than somewhere else where no plan is in place.

#### **ECONOMIC IMPACT**

The campground industry in Connecticut is a **significant economic contributor** with almost a quarter of a billion dollars (\$210,700,000) of expenditures annually. Eighty-six dollars (\$86) per person/per day or \$344 per family of four per day is spent in the community. Almost 1,000 direct jobs with \$36.1 million in annual direct wages are a result of these small businesses. (Sources: RV Industry Association, Connecticut Campground Owners Association, Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, Bureau of Economic Analysis, National Association of RV Parks and Camping - ARVC)

#### **DEFINITIONS**

- **Blue boys** are portable waste tanks that allow RVers to leave their rig parked while still getting waste water out to a proper dump station. Dubbed "blue boy" because many commercially produced tanks for this use are fabricated from blue colored plastic. There are a couple of different varieties. Most are equipped with a pair of wheels at one end and a wagon-tongue or draw bar apparatus that allows one to tow the tank behind a vehicle using a hitch ball.
- An RV **honey wagon** is a truck or trailer operated by the campground that will travel to campsites, and pump-out the waste from black and gray water tanks then carry it off to their on-site dump station.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Priscilla Sherman – Manager, Acorn Acres Campground